IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 10-12, 16, 18, 19 and 21-25 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-25 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Currently Amended). A method for outcomes monitoring comprising the steps of:

collecting ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets <u>for a plurality of individuals</u>;

converting ~~the~~ at least ~~two~~ <u>some of the</u> outcomes data sets into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm for an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets to a data

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processor.

3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the outcomes monitoring report.

4 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

posting the outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

6 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

collecting the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets from at least one user entity at a plurality of discrete intervals.

7 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

generating the outcomes report from at least two of the plurality of discrete intervals.

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8 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

collecting the outcomes data sets from a plurality of user entities; and

individually identifying and converting the outcomes data sets for each user entity of the plurality of user entities;

wherein the outcomes data sets from the plurality of user entities comprises the outcomes data group.

9 (Original). The method of claim 8, wherein the outcomes monitoring report includes at least one outcomes result for a selected user entity of the plurality of user entities and at least one comparison of the norm to the selected one of the least one outcomes result for the selected user entity.

10 (Currently Amended).   <u>At least one processor readable carrier</u> <u>for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be</u> <u>readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least</u> <u>one processor to execute a computer process for performing the</u> <u>method as</u> ~~A computer signal embodied in a carrier wave readable~~ ~~by a computing system and encoding a computer program of~~ ~~instructions for executing a computer process performing the~~ ~~method~~ recited in claim 1.

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11 (Currently Amended). A method for outcomes monitoring of surgical procedures comprising the steps of:

collecting ~~at least two~~ primary source surgical outcomes data sets <u>for a plurality of patients</u>;

converting ~~the~~ at least ~~two~~ <u>some of the</u> primary source surgical outcomes data sets into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm for an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

12 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the ~~at least two~~ primary source surgical outcomes data sets to a data processor.

13 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the outcomes monitoring

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report.

14 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

posting the outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

15 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

16 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

collecting the ~~at least two~~ primary source surgical outcomes data sets from a plurality of surgical centers; and

individually identifying and converting the ~~at least two~~ primary source outcomes data sets for each surgical center of the plurality of surgical centers;

wherein the outcomes data sets from the plurality of surgical centers comprises the outcomes data group.

17 (Original). The method of claim 16, wherein the outcomes monitoring report includes at least one outcomes result for a selected surgical center of the plurality of surgical centers and at least one comparison of the norm to the selected one of

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the least one outcomes result for the selected surgical center.

18 (Currently Amended). <u>At least one processor readable carrier for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as</u> ~~A computer signal embodied in a carrier wave readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process performing the method~~ recited in claim 11.

19 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for outcomes monitoring, the apparatus comprising:

a data collection portion wherein the data collection portion collects ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets <u>for a plurality of individuals</u>;

a data processor portion wherein the data processor portion receives the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets from the data collection portion and wherein the data processor comprises:

a converter portion wherein the converter portion converts ~~the~~ at least ~~two~~ <u>some of the</u> outcomes data sets into an at least one outcomes result;

a norm establishing portion wherein the norm establishing portion establishes a norm for an outcomes data

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group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets;

a comparison portion wherein the comparison portion compares a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

a report generation portion wherein the report generation portion generates at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

20 (Original). The apparatus for outcomes monitoring of claim 19, further comprising a webpage portion wherein the at least one outcomes monitoring report is posted to a webpage.

21 (Currently Amended). The apparatus for outcomes monitoring of claim 19, further comprising a security portion, the security portion selectively restricting access to the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets, the at least one outcomes result and the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

22 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets are surgical procedures outcomes data sets.

23 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the

~~at least two~~ surgical procedures outcomes data sets are primary source data sets.

24 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture for outcomes monitoring, the article of manufacture comprising:

at least one processor readable carrier; and

instructions carried on the at least one carrier;

wherein the instructions are configured to be readable from the at least one carrier by at least one processor and thereby cause the at least one processor to operate so as to:

collect ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets <u>for a plurality of individuals</u>;

convert ~~the~~ at least ~~two~~ <u>some of the</u> outcomes data sets into at least one outcomes result;

establish a norm for an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets;

compare a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generate at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

25 (Currently Amended). <u>At least one processor readable carrier</u>

for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing ~~A signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by at least one processor, cause~~ the at least one processor to monitor outcomes by performing the steps of:

collecting ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets for a plurality of individuals;

converting ~~the~~ at least ~~two~~ some of the outcomes data sets into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm for an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the ~~at least two~~ outcomes data sets;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.